



# \$970,000 returned to members

**A**t its July meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) board of directors approved the retirement of more than \$970,000 in capital credits. The capital credits are paid to members who earned patronage by doing business with the cooperative in 2008, and portions of 2009 and 2022.

Members will also see capital credits from our generation and transmission cooperative from 1993 to 1997. Checks will be mailed in October, unless the member participated in one of the cooperative's early payment capital credit buyout programs, or if the amount is less than \$100. In that case, the refund will be issued by bill credit on the October statement.

The amount of the check depends on a member's "patronage," or how much electricity the member purchased during those years. In addition, to date, the co-op has also made early retirements of

\$271,685 to member estates and former members who requested an early buyout at the time they left the system.

## How do capital credits work?

As a nonprofit organization, NPEC's mission is to provide service to member-owners at cost, while also maintaining the co-op's financial strength. If the co-op earns revenues in excess of its expenditures, it returns those profits to members. Those profits are called capital credits.

Capital credits are the most significant source of equity for most electric cooperatives. This equity is used to help meet the expenses of the co-op, such as paying for new equipment and repaying debt. Capital credits help keep rates at a competitive level by reducing the amount of funds that must be borrowed.

For more information on capital credits, call 800-882-2500. ■

**If you cease to purchase energy from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, please keep us informed of your forwarding address. This will enable us to forward payments when the capital credits are refunded in years to come.**

OCTOBER 2023

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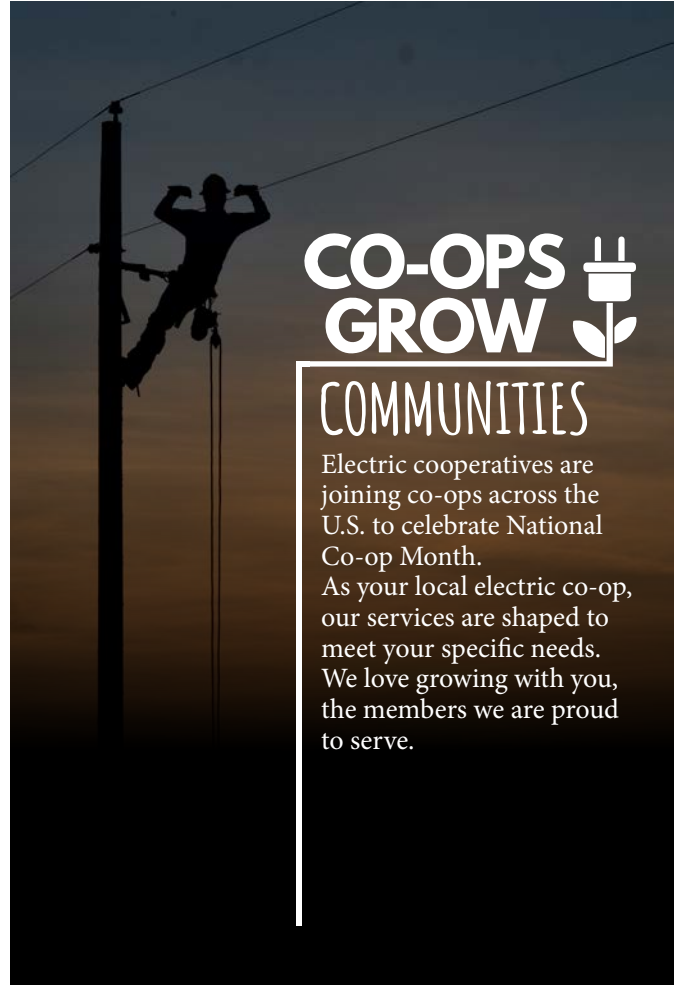
# NPEC to celebrate National Co-op Month with member giveaway

October is National Co-op Month, a month to celebrate how awesome cooperatives are and to highlight how they benefit their members and surrounding communities. In celebration, for the fourth year, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) will support 10 locally owned businesses and giveaway 10 gift certificates in the amount of \$50 each to 10 co-op members.

Electric co-ops, including NPEC, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the member we serve, we also help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members.

Each dollar spent at a local, independent business returns three times more money to the local economy than shopping at a chain or mega online retailer. Local businesses are the heart and soul of our communities, and we are incredibly lucky to have vibrant, diverse and resilient small businesses in our area.

To enter the contest, members must fill out the entry form located below and return it with their October payment or mail to NPEC, P.O. Box 608, Cando, ND 58324, by the entry deadline of Oct. 20. ■



**ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$50 TO A LOCAL BUSINESS!**

Return this completed form with your October payment or mail to:

*Northern Plains Electric*  
Attn: Giveaway Contest  
P.O. Box 608  
Cando, ND 58324



**Deadline: October 20, 2023**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NPEC ACCOUNT #: \_\_\_\_\_

List your favorite locally owned business and reason why: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*By submitting, winners acknowledge their name and city will be published. NPEC employees, trustees, contractors and members of their households are ineligible.



**Seth Syverson**, left, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative general manager, presents the first of five \$10,000 donations to **Erik Christenson**, Heart of America Medical Center CEO.

## NPEC donates to new medical center

The Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) board of directors approved a \$50,000 donation to the Good Samaritan Hospital Association in Rugby.

The donation, which will be distributed at \$10,000 a year for five years, will be used toward the construction of a new health care center that will replace the current critical access hospital and medical facility, which provides care and services as the Heart of America Medical Center.

The new facility will include a critical access

hospital, emergency room, procedure suite, imaging, lab, pharmacy and business office. The hospital will provide for 25 beds, including six acute care beds, one observation bed and 18 wing beds to provide senior living space.

The facility will include a clinic area and allow for the continuation of much-needed medical services to Rugby and the surrounding communities. This project is estimated to benefit over 12,500 rural residents living in Pierce, Benson, McHenry and Rolette counties. ■



# Cando kid donates lemonade money to good causes

BY BRITTNEE WILSON



**Tate Thomson** serves refreshments.

Nine-year-old Tate Thomson donated over \$1,000 to the Fargo Police Department (FPD), though the power of lemonade.

It started when Tate helped his babysitter with a lemonade stand in their hometown of Cando this summer. Fifty percent of their profits went to a community member battling cancer.

After that successful day, Tate, who is the son of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative members Randy and Carlee Thomson, developed a love for philanthropy and wanted to do more.

"I was going to stay with my grandma and grandpa in Lakota, so I asked my grandma if we could do a lemonade stand while I was there," Tate said.

Together with his grandma, Jeanne Aaker, they came up with a plan to donate all the money raised to the FPD as a way to show support to the department after the tragic events of July 14, when an officer lost his life in the line of duty and two other officers were critically injured.

Tate didn't want a typical kid's lemonade stand; he wanted something a little more special. With his grandparents' help, they hand squeezed over 90 lemons and cut up fresh strawberries. They used large to-go cups with lids, perfect for those traveling, and they also baked brownies. He printed off the FPD logo and made

a sign that read, "Freewill. All proceeds go to Fargo Police Department." They set up a table on Main Street in Lakota and waited for customers.

Business was slow at first, but traffic picked up after a Nelson County Sheriff's Department deputy took a picture of Tate at his lemonade stand and posted it to the department Facebook page, encouraging people to stop.

Tate's freewill lemonade stand ended up raising \$760 in just two hours before he sold out. But it didn't stop there. Donations kept coming in days later, totaling \$1,060.

A family friend arranged for Tate to hand deliver the money to the FPD himself. He was met by David Zibolski, chief of police, and two other officers who graciously posed for pictures with Tate and his lemonade sign. At this meeting, Tate was given a token of gratitude, a blueline shirt pin.

"It felt good," Tate said. "I'd do it again if I had a chance." Tate is currently brainstorming ideas for his next good cause. ■



Nine-year-old **Tate Thomson** poses with Police Chief **David Zibolski** (middle) and two other officers from the Fargo Police Department after donating \$1,060 raised from a lemonade stand.



Towner County Medical Center (TCMC) Childcare Director **Christyna Bruce** and TCMC CEO **Ben Bucher** accept donations to the TCMC Childcare program from Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Director **Mark Brehm**. Funds will be used toward program funding.



Bowdon Rural Fire Department will use the funds to update personal protective equipment to ensure the safety of the volunteers. Left to right are volunteer **Conner Fike**, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Director **Curtis Wiesz**, Fire Chief **Trevor Larsen** and NPEC General Manager **Seth Syverson**.



Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Director **Judy Geier**, right, presents checks to **Brad Tweed**, fire chief of the Sykeston Rural Fire Department. Funds will be used to purchase a grass unit fire truck.



Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Director **Lori Carlson**, left, presents checks to **Dakotah Daker**, representative of the Jamestown Rural Fire Department. Funds will be used toward the down payment for a new fire truck.

## Northern Plains and partners award \$30,000 in grants

Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) recently teamed up with CoBank and Basin Electric Power Cooperative to donate \$30,000 to nonprofit organizations who contribute to the communities NPEC serves.

At the July board meeting, the NPEC board of directors approved a donation of \$10,000 to be split among four nonprofit organizations in the service area. The Sykeston Rural Fire Protection District, Bowdon Rural Fire Department, Jamestown Rural Fire Department and Towner County Medical Center (TCMC) Childcare were awarded \$2,500 each.

By teaming up with CoBank and Basin Electric Power, NPEC helped the nonprofits receive matching donations, resulting in a total of \$7,500 for

each organization.

CoBank, a cooperative-leading institution headquartered in Denver, Colo., makes these funds available through its Sharing Success matching grant program. The program was designed to celebrate the vital role cooperatives play in individual communities across the country.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Bismarck that provides electricity to electric cooperatives in nine states, including NPEC.

NPEC is thankful to have partners like CoBank and Basin Electric Power Cooperative who contribute to the communities we serve. ■



# APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



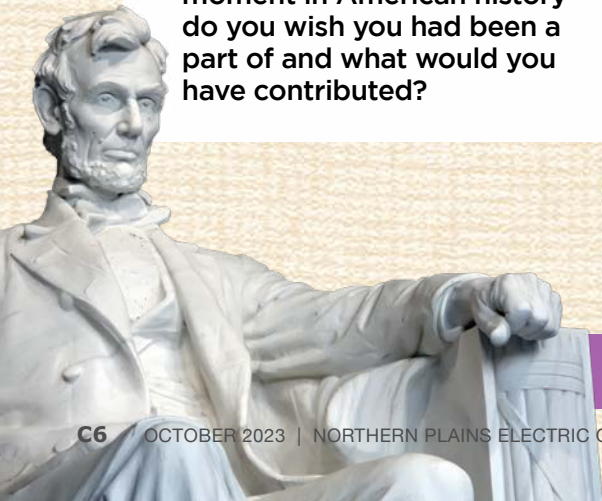
**JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024**  
AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

## HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.
- Email entries to Brittnee Wilson at [brittneew@nplains.com](mailto:brittneew@nplains.com) or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 608, Cando, ND, 58324-0608.
- Questions? Call Brittnee at 701-968-3314 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.



LEARN MORE AT [NDYOUTHTOUR.COM](http://NDYOUTHTOUR.COM)



# Safely use standby generators

**A**n emergency source of power is important during a winter storm for homes and farms, when a power interruption occurs.

“A standby electric generator could prevent costly losses during a power failure,” says Ken Hellevang, North Dakota State University Extension Service agricultural engineer. “However, you need to follow some basic safety rules when using a standby generator.”

Do not operate the generator in an enclosed or partially enclosed space. Gasoline or diesel engines may produce deadly levels of carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide. Carbon monoxide can accumulate in a building even with a large door, such as an open garage door. Wind blowing into an attached garage can push the carbon monoxide into the house. If a generator is operated in an enclosed building, the engine exhaust must be vented outdoors away from the building using engine exhaust ducting.

Choose a generator that provides the power at the same voltage and frequency as the power lines supply, according to Hellevang. Most power lines supply 120/240-volt, single-phase, 60-cycle alternating current to homes and farms.

To help you buy the proper size generator, you need to decide what you must keep operating, such as a sump pump and furnace or certain farm equipment, Hellevang says.

Motors typically require four times the power to start as they do to run. Estimate power requirements from equipment nameplates when possible. As a guide, electric motors require approximately 4,000 watts of power to start and 1,000 watts of power to run for every horsepower of output. A typical home operating a water pump, refrigerator, freezer, furnace blower and a few lights will require around 5,000 watts of peak usage for starting and 2,000 watts for continuous operation.

Electrical equipment normally is plugged into a smaller generator. Extension cords must be properly sized based on the electrical load and distance from the generator. The proper voltage may not be provided to a motor at the end of a very long extension cord, which will cause damage to the motor.

Do not connect the generator to a home or farm electrical system without a transfer switch that

disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects to the generator. The wiring system must be isolated from the power lines using a double-throw transfer switch to prevent the generator from feeding electricity back into the power line. This protects lineworkers who may be working to restore your service. Also, without a double-throw switch, the generator can be ruined due to overload.

Follow the operator’s manual to properly provide electrical power. Instructions might include:

- **Turn off or disconnect all electrical equipment.**
- **Start the unit and bring the generator up to proper speed.** The voltmeter will indicate when the generator is ready to carry the load.
- **Check the voltmeter frequently.** If the voltage falls below 200 for 240-volt service or 100 for 120-volt service, reduce the load on the generator by shutting off some electrical equipment.

For more information, including a video that walks you through the safety protocols of using a portable generator for emergency power, visit <http://bit.ly/NDSUgeneratorsafety>. ■





# Northern Plains can provide loans through economic development

**N**orthern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) is helping economic development efforts in the area by administering a revolving loan fund made possible with funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

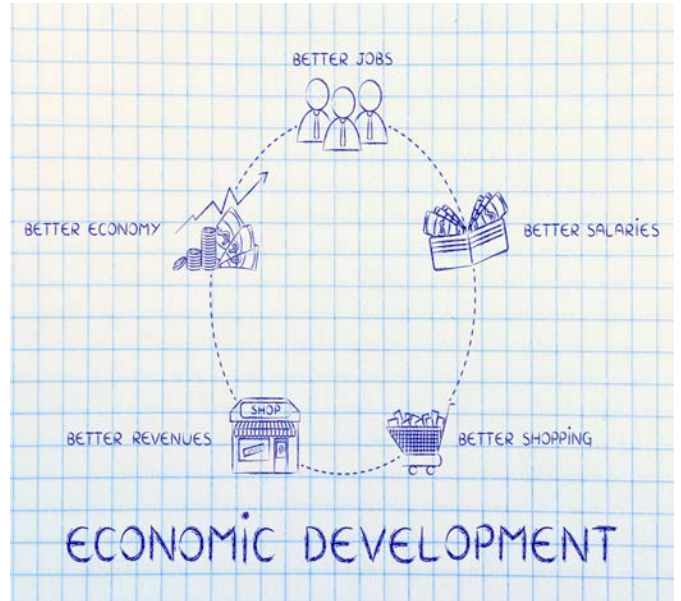
Loans with only 2% interest and minimal administrative fees are available to businesses, nonprofits organizations, and government and tribal entities through the revolving loan fund.

Eligible applicants can receive a loan amount minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum amount is dependent on funds available. The money was provided by a grant from USDA. And there is no risk to the cooperative. The funds will eventually be paid back to USDA.

The objectives of the revolving loan fund include:

- Help create jobs that will help rural areas.
- Provide financing alternatives for business or community facilities with an economically or socially desirable purpose.
- Leverage owner equity and other financing sources.
- Promote development of rural communities

For full details of the revolving loan program, go



to our website at [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com) and find the information under our “Economic Development” page under the “Member Services” tab or contact Business Manager Cheryl Belle at 800-882-2500. ■

## NORTHERN PLAINS

Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*An equal opportunity provider and employer.*

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Cando, ND 58324

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Carrington, ND 58421

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